

CLAIMS

1. A method for improving the efficiency of manufacturing a product, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a manufacturer a desire to manufacture a number of said products;

determining an amount of materials required to produce said number of products;

determining a process for manufacturing said number of products;

calculating a cost to manufacture said number of products based on said amount of materials and said process;

providing to said manufacturer said process and said cost to manufacture said number of products.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving from said manufacturer a payment proportional to said cost to manufacture said number of products.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing said amount of materials to said manufacturer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said process requires a tool, said method further comprising the step of:

providing to said manufacturer said tool.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said process for manufacturing said number of products is an optimum process.

4/6. The method of claim 1, wherein said materials is provided by a material provider and said process for manufacturing said number of products is the intellectual property of said materials provider.

7/6. A system for improving the efficiency of manufacturing a product, comprising:
a product database storing a plurality of products, said product database including a material list and a process description for manufacturing each of said plurality of products;
a pricing engine, said pricing engine receiving a manufacturer's desire to manufacture a number of said products, said pricing engine accessing said product database for determining an amount of materials, a process and a cost for manufacturing said number of products.

8/7. The system of claim 6, further comprising a manufacturer interface module, said manufacturer interface module providing to said manufacturer said amount of materials and said process for manufacturing said number of products.

9/8. The system of claim 7, wherein said manufacturer interface module receives from said manufacturer a payment proportional to said cost to manufacture said number of products.

10/9. The system of claim 8, further comprising a delivery manager, said delivery manager causing said amount of materials to be delivered to said manufacturer.

11/10. The system of claim 9, wherein said delivery manager causes a tool required to perform said process to be delivered to said manufacturer.

12/11. The system of claim 10, wherein said process for manufacturing said number of products is an optimum process.

¹³12. The method of claim ⁷6, wherein said materials is provided by a material provider and said process for manufacturing said number of products is the intellectual property of said materials provider.